

## New Covenant Promises

Heb 8 - 10

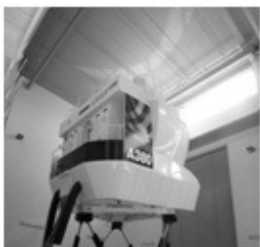
### SLIDE COCKPIT



I'll just get you to have a look at the picture up there. You'll probably recognize what it is straight away. You can see all the dials and the knobs. That should give it away. And if that doesn't give it away. What the guys there are wearing should do the trick.

Now it's interesting, because I'm sure not everyone's actually been in one of these. But straight away you recognize, that it's the cockpit of a plane. Maybe we've seen it on Tv or the movies or something.

But this particular cockpit is special. It's the cockpit of an airbus. An a380. But if I just pan back and show you the picture from the outside, you'll see



### SLIDE - SIMULATOR

There it is. This is an airbus a380 FLIGHT SIMULATOR. If you bought a ticket to fly to Singapore, you wouldn't be boarding one of these. There's no wings, no fuselage. I guess, given qantas' record over the last few months. At least there's less chance of an engine blowing up. Because it DOESN'T HAVE ONE.

SLIDE – QANTAS PLANE

But that's ok. The simulator was never meant to take off. From the ground up. It's a purpose made copy. Of the real thing. And that's it's value.



The real thing carries 555 passengers. The real thing has 80000 pounds of thrust. Flies at an altitude of up to 43000 feet. can fly nearly 15000km without stopping

But the simulator, even though it only flies at an altitude of about 10 feet. If you're a pilot the simulator's vital preparation for the real thing.

And as the writer to the Hebrews takes us on a bit of a tour of Moses' tent and the rituals of the priests and the sacrifices. It's vital preparation for understanding the reality of the New Covenant ministry of Jesus.

Because even though we're not back there. With Moses and the tabernacle and the sacrifices. We're not quite there yet either. The fullness of what God's done can't be seen now. Because we won't experience it fully 'till we're there in heaven.

So as we take a walk around the earthly tent built by Moses with the altar and the priests. He's taking us back to the purpose made copy.

So we can get a hold of the heavenly reality that's ours in Christ. So we'll understand it's value.

See he's been talking about Jesus as a heavenly high priest. There at the start of chapter 8. If you skim your eye over those first few verses. He's talking about Jesus who's the high priest serving at the heavenly tent. Which is set up by God.

And if you're struggling to picture what that looks like - you can get an idea. By looking at the copy made by man. If you jump down to verse 5 talking about the priests appointed in Moses day. There it is in black and white.

<sup>5</sup> They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven.

That's why you read those detailed passages in Exodus

SLIDE

There's about three or four chapters with exact instructions about poles and materials and lengths and decorations and you might wonder why so much detail. But the point is. It's a simulator. The tabernacle or the tent. It's an earthly copy..of a heavenly reality.

Now...you can understand why it would be so important in the A380 simulator. No good if the button for the seat belt light in the copy is the button to open the doors in the real thing.

And the earthly model of the heavenly sanctuary's meant to be a copy.

This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

So you build the tent exactly as God says. And the priests do their ministry at the tent. Exactly as he says. Because it's a pattern....of the heavenly reality.

And in a minute we'll get a walk through so you can see the pattern. So you can get the picture of the heavenly reality.

See Moses' tabernacle was never meant to be the final thing.

And the neither was the whole agreement God made with Moses.

Talking about the Old Testament law which included the temple ministry, and the promises of blessing for obedience. That's the old covenant. And at the coming of Jesus. There's a new ministry. There in verse 6. And a new agreement.

<sup>6</sup> But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

The first covenant falls short. Not because it's flawed.... But it is flawed in a sense.... Because the people can't keep it. And if you look at verse 8 there's a

quote from the prophet Jeremiah. Who lives at a time when it's so obvious the covenant promises have failed. Assyria's taken the 10 tribes in the north. The Southern tribes are about to suffer the same fate. Because over and over again they can't keep their side of the bargain. They just keep running after every god out there. So Jeremiah announces the solution.

<sup>8</sup> But God found fault with the people and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a NEW COVENANT with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

And under this new covenant. God's laws won't be on stone tablets deposited in the golden ark in the temple. They'll be internal. Written on people's hearts. I will be their God. They'll be my people. They'll all know me God says.

And I'll forgive their wickedness.

So.... Jesus might be a carpenter. But he doesn't come to do a patch up job on the old temple or the old covenant. It's time for something totally new.

V13 He's made it obsolete. And it's disappearing.

So let's jump in the simulator. And let's have a look at chapter 9. Get our heads around the copy. So we get the right picture of the real thing.

Verse 1.

<sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 9:1** Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary.

There's two rooms in the earthly tent. There's a courtyard outside of that as well. But then the inside has two parts. You go through the first curtain to the first room. first room's called the Holy Place. And there's some decorations in there. The table with the bread on it and a lampstand beside it. That's the outer room. And then there's the second room. The MOST HOLY PLACE. And that's got the golden altar and the gold covered ark that's got the stone tablets in it with the commandments. There's an atonement cover on the ark with the gold cherubim. And some other things. That's behind the second curtain.

And the priests go into that outer room. They're the only ones that can. But when it comes to the MOST HOLY PLACE. If you're looking at verse 7 there. There's THREE ONLY'S

1. Only the HIGH PRIEST can go in
2. Only once a year
3. And only with blood or never without blood.

He goes through the ritual of cleansing himself. He wears the right clothes. He kills gets the UNBLEMISHED BULL and the UNBLEMISHED GOAT. And he kills them in the right way. And then he takes himself into the tent. Into the holy place. Into the MOST HOLY PLACE. And if he comes out alive. Then atonement's been made. For another year.

In some sense there's a cleansing. Because the offering's been made. And received.

And that's somehow a pattern of the heavenly sanctuary. But the very fact that there's such limited access. Only one person, only once a year. Only with blood. Shows that there's a problem.

It's like if you had a barbed wire fence around your house and a no entry sign at the front door. There in verse 8 and it's a problem of access.

<sup>8</sup> The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing.

And not only is the access limited. So is the effectiveness of the sacrifice.

Apart from that. You read verse 9 it says.

<sup>9</sup> This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were NOT ABLE TO CLEAR THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORSHIPER <sup>10</sup>  
They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings--  
external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

The temple and the priests and the sacrifices and the offerings. It's almost like they're just window dressing. Like when you go to Ikea and they've got all these computers and TV's set up in the displays. Which are only cardboard.

And you might say well what's the point?

The point is. They were NEVER MEANT TO FLY. They were only ever valuable copies.... meant to point to Jesus, not DO THE JOB.... only Jesus could do.

Otherwise Jesus would never have had to come.

So from verse 11... lets go from the model, from the copy to the real thing.

<sup>11</sup> When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation.

<sup>12</sup> He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

So you can see the similarities. That the shadow or the copy has to the reality. Except that the reality's exponentially greater.

Jesus goes into the Holy of Holies that's not even a part of the creation. He enters by virtue of HIS OWN BLOOD.

He does that ONCE FOR ALL. And the price is paid. Not for a year. But the price of eternal redemption.

The goats blood somehow makes you outwardly clean in a ceremonial sense. The blood of Christ under the new covenant does that inward work God said it would and cleanses the conscience.

<sup>13</sup> The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. <sup>14</sup> How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Just go on reading verse 15

<sup>15</sup> For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance-- now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

<sup>23</sup> It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

Because the reality is. Jesus doesn't enter the simulator. He walks straight into God's presence in heaven. To appear for you and I.

He does it once. Not once a year.

He takes his own innocent blood, the offering of an unblemished life.

But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

So you go from the copy. To the reality. And the reality is. There's no more outer room. And there's free access to the real holy of holies through the high priest who's in God's presence now.

And that's the basis of the Christian hope.

If you remember seeing the swimmers at the commonwealth games. Every single one of them had a security tag around their neck. And it doesn't matter if you're the gold medal winner or you come last in the heats. You're entrance. You're continued presence. Isn't in your performance. It's in that tag. And that's the Christian assurance before God.

If you skip down to 24 in chapter 9.

<sup>24</sup> For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear FOR US in God's presence.

And there's a little bit of a play on the second appearance of the high priest there. When he comes out of the tent. Because Jesus hasn't come out yet. But when he does. His second coming. Will be when he brings salvation to those who are waiting.

And that's the point of what's just been said.

Here's a letter written to people in the first century, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century....who are waiting.

For Jesus to come the second time.

And when you get to chapter 11. You're going to get a list of waiters. The people who faced all kinds of things in the now. Because of their heavenly hope in Jesus.

You get down to verse 19 in chapter 10. Here's the point.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,

Lets draw near. Let's be sincere. Let's be assured while we're waiting.

Because of what Jesus has done.

It's pretty easy to get INSURANCE in this life. But ASSURANCE is a lot harder.

Let's draw near and be sincere and verse 23

**Hebrews 10:23** <sup>23</sup> Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,

That's a real challenge to what you value. If you're a first century Jew you might find it hard to let go of the whole temple bit. But in the light of the greater ministry of Jesus. It's a no brainer. Pretty easy to say that objectively when that's not an issue for us.

But what are you holding unswervingly to? And how does that stack up against the hope Jesus offers?

Is there any chance that Eddy Macguire can offer you the same hope Jesus can? Those fleeting sensual desires. What can they offer? Maybe you're holding unswervingly to your sense of pride. My kids learned very early to say. By self. Finally. Verse 24. Because of the hope we have.

**Hebrews 10:24** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Now hang on just a second. What gives. That's not about me. No that's right. But you benefit. When you're part of a team. I'm sure lots of you are far more disciplined than me. But if it's up to me. I can't get myself out of bed to go for a run. But I can if someone's spurring me on.

Let's not give up meeting together. As fellow waiters. Let's encourage one another all the more as you see the day approaching.

for he who promised is faithful.

